

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 152480 TOSEC 070061
ORIGIN SS-25

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APPROVED BY S/S - MR. ANDERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152480 TOSEC 070061

EXDIS, KOOLAID/FOR TARNOFF FROM ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE PRESS LINE WE WOULD TAKE IF ASKED
ABOUT MENGISTU THREAT.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ETHIOPIAN
WARNING, MADE BY CHAIRMAN MENGISTU, THAT THE ETHIOPIAN
GOVERNMENT WOULD BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE US
IF WE SUPPLIED DEFENSIVE ARMS TO SOMALIA?

ANSWER: WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT
THEIR CONCERN REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE US PRO-
VIDING LIMITED DEFENSIVE ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. WE HAVE
ADVISED THEM OF OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE ASSURANCES FROM
SOMALIA THAT IT WILL RESPECT THE TERRITORY OF ITS
NEIGHBORS AND TO SATISFY OURSELVES THAT SOMALIA IS PRE-
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PARED TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS BEFORE THE US
WILL SUPPLY EVEN LIMITED DEFENSIVE ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA.
OUR EFFORTS, FAR FROM BEING HOSTILE TOWARD ETHIOPIA,
ARE DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE
AREA.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE VISIT OF A U.S. MILITARY

SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA?

ANSWER: WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT
THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY A U.S. SURVEY TEAM TO
REVIEW POSSIBLE REQUIREMENTS FOR LIMITED DEFENSIVE
MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SUCH A VISIT HAS NOT BEEN DEFINITELY
SCHEDULED. CHRISTOPHER

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